

--12. A television broadcast method comprising:

transmitting composite television regular program signals from a central site to plural remote broadcast transmission sites for broadcast re-transmission therefrom;

generating control signals and alternate program data separately for each of said remote transmission sites at said central site and also transmitting said control signals and alternate program data to said plural remote sites simultaneously with and as a part of said composite television program signals and via at least one auxiliary bi-directional digital signal communication link;

coordinating error correction of said control signals and alternate program data via said auxiliary bi-directional digital signal communication link;

remotely controlling each of said remote broadcast transmission sites from said central site via said control signals so as to selectively:

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- a) interrupt said broadcast re-transmission while transmitting respectively corresponding alternate program signals locally generated from said control signals and/or alternate program data; and
 - b) overlaying or compositing the broadcast re-transmission with alternate program signals locally generated from said control signals and/or alternate program data.

13. A television broadcast method as in claim 12 wherein:

said control signals and/or alternate program data are automatically converted locally at a remote transmitter site to at least one of video graphics, footer, frame and animation using at least one of a remotely controlled decoder, inserter, hard disk and CD-ROM recorder/reader.

14. A television broadcast method as in claim 12 including:
producing at least some of said auxiliary video signals at a continuity studio, and
sending alphanumeric image data to a selected number of remote sites through
modem/telephone networks or satellite datalink.

15. A television broadcast method as in claim 12 including:
generating and sending command codes within the broadcasting process, either
automatically or semiautomatically under an operator's control, to remote stations during
blanking intervals of the composite television signals.

16. A television broadcast method as in claim 12 including:
controlling and verifying whether the data and video signals present at the control site
and sent to remote stations have been received correctly and whether corresponding locally
generated video has been broadcast.

17. A television broadcast method as in claim 16 wherein said controlling activity is
effected through a modem connected to a telecommunications network.

18. A television broadcast method as in claim 12 wherein a decoder at each remote
site extracts, decodes and transfer commands coming through teletext to a computer at the
remote site.

19. A television broadcast method as in claim 12 including from the central site:
managing and controlling remote site (a) functions, (b) video switching between general or
modified/differentiated transmissions to a corresponding broadcast area from a storage medium
for still or moving character and/or image data to a display producing area and connected in

various forms with a chosen transmission, (c) reports the results of a control process to a central site continuity studio and (d) starts, stops, changes or differentiates one or more processes according to commands superimposed on the transmission of composite television regular program signal.

20. A television broadcast method as in claim 12 including:

querying data comprising operation and error reports sent to a central site continuity studio and also investigating when desired, the remote station operational information from the central site continuity studio, through modem/telephone network and/or satellite datalink which produces an operation report and sends it to the central site continuity studio.

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21. A television broadcast method using a central and program source and control site to control plural distributed remote automated re-broadcast sites, said method including remote control from the central site of local alternate programming generation at each of the remote sites, said method also including remotely activating hardware at a selected remote control controlling (a) actual overlay on video of alphanumeric/image data and (b) signal levels from a satellite receiver and output from a TV transmitter to be within acceptable pre-defined limits.

22. A television broadcast system comprising:

means for transmitting composite television regular program signals from a central site to plural remote broadcast transmission sites for broadcast re-transmission therefrom;

means for generating control signals and alternate program data separately for each of said remote transmission sites at said central site and also transmitting said control signals and alternate program data to said plural remote sites simultaneously with and as a part of said

composite television program signals and via at least one auxiliary bi-directional digital signal communication link;

means for coordinating error correction of said control signals and alternate program data via said auxiliary bi-directional digital signal communication link;

means for remotely controlling each of said remote broadcast transmission sites from said central site via said control signals so as to selectively;

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cont.
- a) interrupt said broadcast re-transmission while transmitting respectively corresponding alternate program signals locally generated from said control signals and/or alternate program data; and
 - b) overlay or composite the broadcast re-transmission with alternate program signals locally generated from said control signals and/or alternate program data.

23. A television broadcast system as in claim 22 further comprising:

means for converting said control signals and/or alternate program data locally at a remote transmitter site to at least one of video graphics, footer, frame and animation using at least one of a remotely controlled decoder, inserter, hard disk and CD-ROM recorder/reader.

24. A television broadcast system as in claim 22 including:

means for producing at least some of said auxiliary video signals at a continuity studio and
sending alphanumeric image data to a selected number of remote sites through modem/telephone networks or satellite datalink.

25. A television broadcast system as in claim 22 including:
means for generating and sending command codes within the broadcasting process, either automatically or semiautomatically under an operator's control, to remote stations during blanking intervals of the composite television signals.

26. A television broadcast system as in claim 22 including:
means for controlling and verifying whether the data and video signals present at the central site and sent to remote stations have been received correctly and whether corresponding locally generated video has been broadcast.

27. A television broadcast system as in claim 26 wherein said means for controlling includes a modem connected to a telecommunications network.

28. A television broadcast system as in claim 22 including a decoder at each remote site which extracts, decodes and transfer commands coming through teletext to a computer at the remote site.

29. A television broadcast system as in claim 22 including means at the central site for managing and controlling remote site:

(a) functions, (b) video switching between general or modified/differentiated transmissions to a corresponding broadcast area from a storage medium for still or moving character and/or image data to a display producing area and connected in various forms with a chosen transmission, (c) reports the results of a control process to a central site continuity studio and (d) starts, stops, changes or differentiates one or more processes according to commands superimposed on the transmission of composite television regular program signal.

30. A television broadcast system as in claim 22 including:

means for querying data comprising operation and error reports sent to a central site continuity studio and also investigating when desired, the remote station operational information from the central site continuity studio, through modem/telephone network and/or satellite datalink which produces an operational report and sends it to the central site continuity studio.

31. A television broadcast system including:

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a central program source and control site controlling plural distributed remote automated re-broadcast sites system;

means for remote control from the central site of local alternate programming generation at each of the remote sites;

means for remotely activating hardware at a selected remote site;

means for controlling (a) actual overlay on video of alphanumerical/image data and (b) signal levels from a satellite receiver and output from a TV transmitter to be within acceptable ~~pre-defined limits.~~
